

TRUE NORTHERNER.

Published Every Wednesday.

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN, MAY 18, 1887.

In its issue of May 11th, the *Courier* says editorially, "On Thursday last, the house passed the BATES bill." That must have been news indeed to its readers. So far from having passed the BATES bill at that time, it was then under consideration in committee of the whole and so continued for a week thereafter, and did not pass the house until the afternoon of the 12th instant. Our honored contemporary should read some other paper than the *Evening News*.

It has been jestingly said that whenever a man committed a crime, it was always in order to ask, "Who was she?" That must have been news indeed to its readers. So far from having passed the BATES bill at that time, it was then under consideration in committee of the whole and so continued for a week thereafter, and did not pass the house until the afternoon of the 12th instant. Our honored contemporary should read some other paper than the *Evening News*.

The passage of the BATES bill by the house of representatives last Thursday afternoon was a step in the right direction, but it was only a step, and if the bill passes the senate and becomes a law, it will be but the beginning of the legislation demanded by the people. Unless the passage of that bill shall be supplemented by a local option law that will allow such counties as desire so to do, to prohibit the traffic, the legislature will merit and receive the hearty disapproval of a very large proportion of its constituents.

At thirty-six polling places in the city of Detroit, at the recent election, the polls were held in saloons. The law forbids the holding of a justice court in a whiskey-shop, but permits the vile dens to be occupied by the polls, and respectable citizens who desire to exercise their highest and most sacred right are compelled to enter sinks of iniquity for that purpose or to forego the privilege of casting their votes. It is not to be wondered at that where such a system is tolerated, there should be such an overwhelming vote in favor of the rum traffic. There is certainly reason enough for the enactment of more stringent laws for the maintenance of the purity of the ballot.

One of the most important pieces of legislation now pending before the legislature is the matter of railroad fares. The MANLY bill provided for a general reduction to two cents per mile, which was exactly right. The BAKER substitute, which is more likely to meet with favor, provides for two and one-half cents per mile, exempting short lines from its provisions, allowing three cents in the Upper Peninsula and providing that 500 mile tickets shall be kept on sale at ten dollars each. Such a bill would probably be accepted by the people, although it does not afford them the full measure of relief to which they are entitled and which they would be far more apt to get if legislative passes been canceled at the same time the companies claimed that they were legally compelled to withdraw all other passes. Nobody believes that the trunk lines cannot afford to carry passengers at a two cent rate, and nobody except railroad stockholders, officials and their paid attorneys even pretend to any such belief. The alternative presented is, shall the state rule the roads or shall the roads rule the state? The legislature cannot, if it would, avoid a solution of the conundrum.

It is argued that taxation in the cities of the state is preferable to prohibition, and that it would be tyrannical to permit the country vote to force an obnoxious policy upon localities that prefer regulation of the liquor traffic to its suppression. Concede it, for the sake of the argument. Is it any less unjust to allow the city vote to force taxation over a large area of the state where the people prefer prohibition? As the matter now stands, the city of Detroit controls the policy of the state in dealing with the saloon. If the citizens of Wayne county are willing to be dictated to and controlled by its saloon element, made up largely, as it is, of the most disreputable people to be found in Michigan, is that any reason why the rest of the people should be compelled to submit to the same system? If Detroit, like Ephraim, is joined to its idols, let it alone, but do not compel the entire state to bow down at its unholy shrine. Give the good people outside of the metropolis an opportunity to rid themselves of the curse if they will. The result can be accomplished now only by the enactment of a local option law. Shall we have it? Would that the question could be answered in the affirmative, but we fear the present legislature will fail to fulfil its duty in this regard. But if it be not yet, the time will come when, with righteous indignation, the people will rise in their might and drive the iniquitous traffic without the borders of the state.

There is no topic in which the people of Michigan are so deeply interested as in the suppression of the liquor traffic. There never was a time in the history of the state when so much attention was attracted in the direction of the saloon as there is at the present time. The wide-spread discussion that took place during the recent campaign aroused our citizens to a full knowledge of the political power of the liquor men and their supporters, and there is a deep-seated determination in the hearts of the people that the saloon must cease to be a factor in the politics of our state. In other words, it is determined that "the saloon must go," and the agitation of the question will not cease, the fight will be continued on the same line until the business is driven out of our state, or at least placed under the ban of the law and, if carried on at all, carried on

illegally and forced to hide in "holes in the wall" and in secret places, like the outlaw it ought to be and which it will become before the contest is over. The legislature of our state should lose no time in passing a stringent local option law, as the first and most available step in the direction of a legal suppression of the traffic. If it fails in this duty, it misrepresents the people, who will see to it that other men are elected who will carry out the wishes of their constituents. The man or set of men, or the political party that antagonizes legislation for the curtailment or suppression of the traffic in Michigan, will make a great mistake. Republican representatives who cannot divest themselves of the idea that the republican party must cater to the saloon and its influence—if there are any such—will bitterly repent their folly hereafter. There is but one course open for Michigan republicans if they would maintain their supremacy, and that is to make open and vigorous war upon the iniquitous traffic. If the party cannot succeed without temporizing and catering to the saloon, the sooner it is defeated the better. Its greatest and most famous victories have always been won when some great moral principle was its vitalizing influence. Let the party take advanced ground on this question and history will repeat itself. The saloon must go, if not at the bidding and at the hands of the republican party, then the people will find some other avenue through which they can express their wishes and compel obedience thereto.

The *Washington Post*, administration organ, takes exception to Col. DUFFIELD's speech recounting the achievements of the army of the Cumberland. The *Post* says, "We desire to enter our protest against the remark of Adjutant DUFFIELD to the effect that the army of the Cumberland 'captured, in his ignominious disguise, the arch traitor, JEFFERSON DAVIS.'" The *Post* then goes on to state that JEFF was simply "a traitor to the laws he had sworn to obey" and not to his section or state. Of course, in the estimation of administration organs like the *Post*, that was only a minor offense. A man that stuck by his state and was nothing but a traitor to his country and his country's flag, was only living up to the ancient democratic doctrine of state rights, and instead of being characterized as an "arch traitor" should be regarded as a grand and good man, a patriot. And then that story about "ignominious disguise" grates harshly upon the tender feelings of the democratic *Post*. Of course the old traitor didn't want to be captured, and so, says the *Post*, he disguised himself with a waterproof, but there was nothing ignominious nor disgraceful about it. But notwithstanding the lacerated feelings of the democratic *Post*, there are millions of loyal people who will persist in regarding such disguise as a most ignominious conclusion to the career of a man who had been the proud head of the greatest rebellion the world ever witnessed; people who will continue to regard the man who once bore the title of "President of the Confederate States" as an "arch traitor" who ought to have expiated his treason on the gallows tree, and even though every democratic paper in the land should unite with the *Post* in its condemnation of such opinion, it would still remain unchanged.

There is nothing encouraging in the fact that our foreign immigration is on the increase. 10,000 immigrants landing at Castle Garden in one day is not a cause for congratulation. There are already too many foreigners in this country for the good of the nation. The time was when an increase of population from foreign countries was desirable, but that time has long since gone by. Forty years ago it was all right to sing in the words of the old song, "Come from every nation, come from every way, Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm." But such is not the case at the present day, and a large foreign immigration is an absolute detriment to the welfare and prosperity of the country. American labor is already depressed to a very low ebb, there is a spirit of unrest everywhere pervading the ranks of the laboring men, the struggle to obtain the necessities and comforts of life is severe and competition in the labor market is close and sharp; and every ship-load of emigrants that is landed on our shores increases the severity of the struggle, adds to the competition and still further depresses the market for labor. It is to this immigration from the old world that America is indebted for her socialists, her communists, her anarchists and her dynamiters. Native American citizens are never anarchists. The ranks of those who would tear down and destroy the cherished institutions of this fair land, are not recruited from among Americans, but from the scum of foreign lands, men who have left their country for their country's good. It is high time that the question were asked, not only asked but settled, "What are we going to do about it?" We believe in the doctrine of protection, and we believe it is the duty of the general government to protect American labor against this wholesale foreign competition, as well as to protect the people against the importation of the products of cheap foreign labor. The government has wholly prohibited Chinese immigration, and it certainly should adopt measures that will restrict emigration from Europe to America. The sooner such policy shall be inaugurated and carried out, the sooner will our labor troubles cease and the better will it be for the peace and prosperity of our country.

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